



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
December 11, 2024 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

John I. Whitworth, III
James Alderman

Carrie P. Hill
Stephen Bedner

Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.

1. Call to Order

President Bedner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. and confirmed the quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

Mr. Strowd stated that Agenda items #8 & 10 have been postponed.

4. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

5. General Public Comment (limited to 5 minutes)

There was no general public comment.

6. Approval of minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve the minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month, seconded by Vice President Hill and approved unanimously.

7. Quarterly Investment Update – Karen Hoyt, Director of Finance & Administrative Services

Ms. Hoyt introduced Sean Gannon, PFM Asset Management, to provide a quarterly update on the performance of the District's managed and FL Palm investment accounts for the quarter ending September 30, 2024.

Mr. Gannon reported on summarizing updates on Federal Reserve actions, employment trends, inflation, and the portfolio's performance. Quarterly performance delivered a 2.84% return, with a 6.84 return over the year, exceeding benchmarks. Earnings included nearly \$1 million for the quarter and over \$2 million for the year, with strong realized interest income.

A copy of the report is attached hereto as part of the meeting materials.

Ms. Hoyt announced that Chris Johnson will be joining Lake Worth Drainage District as the Director of Finance and Administration, bringing over 20 years of governmental experience. His first day will be January 6, with Ms. Hoyt remaining for a transition period of approximately one month to ensure a smooth handover upon her retirement. Chris Johnson was introduced during the meeting.

Ms. Walker announced that Bob Wise, the District's GIS/CAD Technician, will be retiring on December 16 after 16 years of service. Although he preferred not to have formal recognition, his contributions to the GIS and Regulation team were acknowledged.

DISCUSSION

8. Approval to award bid to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the annex office space for LWDD Building "C" – Aquatics Warehouse (ITB 24-10667D.01) – Michelle Sinclair, O&M Specialist/Procurement Coordinator – Item Postponed

9. Approval to award bid to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the replacement of metal roof and side wall panels for LWDD Building "C" - Aquatics Warehouse (ITB 24-10666D.01) – Michelle Sinclair, O&M Specialist/Procurement Coordinator

Ms. Sinclair stated that an Invitation to Bid (ITB) was issued for the replacement of metal roof and sidewall panels for Building C, the Aquatics building, due to the age and deterioration of the existing structure. The project includes removal and replacement of the skylights, metal roof panels, and sidewall panels, as well as addressing any rust issues in the framing. Contractors are responsible for managing necessary permits. The ITB was posted on October 25 on DemandStar, with mandatory site visits over two weeks and bids due by December 9. Three bids were received: Contracting Group at \$99,300, US Coating Specialties at \$81,213.97, and Walker Design and Construction at \$130,670. The approved budget for the project is \$50,000, and the lowest bid is \$81,213.97.

Staff recommended approval to award bid to the lowest responsive and responsible contractor – US Coating Specialties for \$81,213.97.

A motion was made by Vice President Hill to approve staff recommendation, was seconded by Sr. Vice President Alderman and approved unanimously.

10. **Approval to award bid to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for purchase of a remote water control gate for Control Structure #14 – Michelle Sinclair, O&M Specialist/Procurement Coordinator – Item Postponed**

STAFF REPORTS

11. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Rayman provided an outreach update in response to board questions about recent efforts. She summarized recent activities and initiatives, offering a quick overview as requested by the board. A copy of the report is attached hereto as part of the meeting materials.

Mr. Strowd provided an update on regional water conditions. He stated that Lake Okeechobee is currently at 15.5' which is at normal levels to get through dry season. However, the Corps has announced upcoming regulatory releases to support ecological conditions in the Lake. Regional water supply stakeholders typically become concerned if the Lake falls below 12' or lower, but that is the Corps' target. The drought index indicates that dry conditions are starting to occur and long-term weather projections indicate significant probability for below average rainfall. With the planned releases, the Lake could be at 11.5 feet at the end of the dry season and hopefully we will receive rain. He noted that water users cannot draw water from Lake Okeechobee at 10.5'. He also reminded the board that Water Conservation Area 1 is the District primary source of water, but levels have been dropping due to evaporation. He referenced several charts and graphs as part of his report which are attached hereto as part of the meeting materials.

Mr. Las Casas reported that operations have returned to full capacity, with no more hurricanes or storm threats to contend with. He mentioned that the team is moving forward with the MRP program, also known as Phase Two of the canal rehabilitation program. Active projects are currently underway, and the program is being ramped up to continue over the next 20 years.

Ms. Walker reported that the deadline for interested parties to submit their intent to run for the Sub-District 1 Board of Supervisor seat is at the end of the current meeting. At this time, there are no other interested parties aside from the incumbent, James Alderman. Therefore, there will be an uncontested election. Based on the new procedures, the January 8th Landowners' meeting will not require an election. Instead, the nomination and election to the seat for three years will be ratified by landowners present. This will mark the start of the 12-year maximum term limit, with board members required to run every three years.

Ms. Walker also announced that the Landowners' meeting will take place on January 8th, with staff preparing the presentation for the board.

Additionally, she mentioned the holiday party scheduled for next Thursday, December 19th, and extended an invitation to all board members to join the staff for lunch.

12. District Counsel's Report

No additional items to report.

13. Board Reports & Comment

No additional reports or comments.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 A.M.



President – Stephen Bedner



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta